

## ABSTRACT

A solids feed means for a direct smelting plant is disclosed. The solids feed means includes 2 or more pairs  
5 of lances for injecting solid feed materials for a direct smelting process into a direct smelting vessel. The solids feed means also includes a main supply line and a pair of branch lines for supplying solid feed material to the lances of each pair of lances with the branch lines  
10 interconnecting the main supply line and the lances of the pair of lances. The lances are arranged around the vessel in pairs of diametrically opposed lances. At least one pair of lances is provided for injecting metalliferous feed material (such as iron-containing materials, particularly  
15 iron ore fines) and at least one of the other pairs of lances is provided for injecting solid carbonaceous material (such as coal) and optionally fluxes. The pairs of lances are arranged around the vessel so that adjacent lances are lances that are provided to inject different  
20 materials.